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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES LEASE OF 1130 W LAWRENCE TO CTA FOR RED LINE STATION  
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

City Council today approved Mayor Rahm Emanuel's ordinance authorizing the execution of a lease agreement with the Chicago Transit Authority to permit the use of a City-owned parking lot for construction staging and activities associated with the reconstruction of the Lawrence Avenue Red Line station.

The lot, located at 1130 West Lawrence Avenue, will be used for construction staging and construction activities required to completely rebuild the Lawrence Avenue Red Line station, part of CTA's historic Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) project.

The first phase of RPM will rebuild four of the oldest Red Line stations (Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr) to make them fully accessible to people with disabilities, and completely reconstruct 1.3 miles of adjacent track structure. RPM Phase One also includes the construction of a rail bypass to unclog a 100-year-old junction where Red, Purple and Brown Line trains currently intersect—allowing CTA to significantly increase the number of trains it can run along the Red Line to reduce overcrowding and meet growing demand for transit service.

The Lawrence station was originally built in 1923, and is used by more than 1.1 million riders annually. Construction of a new station is expected to begin in mid-2019. Though the design of the station won't be determined until the CTA hires a general contractor, expected later this year, the new station will include an elevator, larger stationhouse footprint and wider platforms, among other modern amenities.

Allowing the CTA use of the City-owned lot will reduce the impact on traffic flow on Lawrence Avenue during the redevelopment project.

The lease agreement will be valid from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2027. The CTA will pay the City for lost parking revenue during this time.

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